

The Advisor

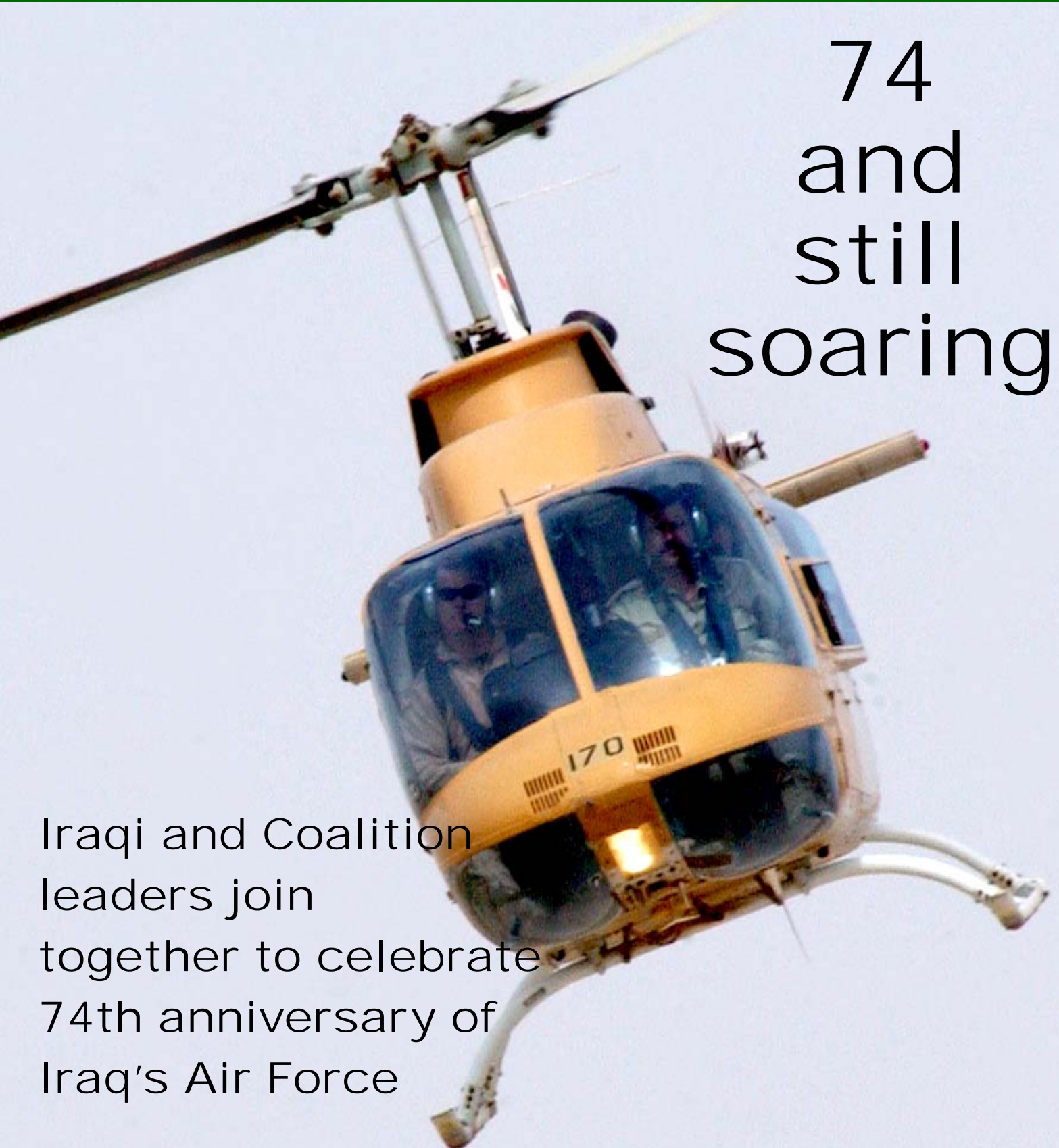
April 23, 2005

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Official Weekly Command Information Report for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq

74
and
still
soaring

Iraqi and Coalition
leaders join
together to celebrate
74th anniversary of
Iraq's Air Force



April 23, 2005

MNSTC-I

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Cover: An Iraqi pilot, with a Coalition co-pilot, flies over the Iraqi Air Force 74th anniversary celebration in a Bell 206 helicopter.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Saddam-defying colonel now leads Iraqi Army battalion

By U.S. Army Spc. Matthew McLaughlin
10th Mountain Division Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAWK, Iraq — When Coalition Forces were faced with having to help Iraq rebuild its Army, they knew they needed someone who would walk down the most dangerous street in Baghdad without fear; someone who would ignore religious differences for the greater good; someone who once told Saddam Hussein where to go.

They needed a leader and found an outspoken warrior.

Col. Mohammad Faik Rauf al-Samarai, 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade commander, is a stark contrast to the image of a ruthless Iraqi Army commander.

Known to all as "Colonel Mohammad," his graying hair and wrinkles around his eyes and mouth from years of laughter mask a hardened warrior's heart. He has experienced both national and personal struggles yet manages to laugh in the face of strife.

Mohammad served as an air defense officer in Hussein's regime. He boasted that he excelled beyond officers who outranked him and was a valued asset to the Army. He received 14 medals from Saddam, awards he now gives as gifts to American allies.

As proud as he is of his accomplishments, he spoke with equal

pride of his imprisonment after an alleged argument with Hussein, the tyrant known for executing dissenters.

"I told Saddam I don't care about him, I care about God," Mohammad recalled of the comment that sent him away for eight months and 11 days, a number Mohammad kept track of by marking every day on the wall of his cell in between beatings from the prison guards.

"Every day they beat me," he said as if reading the memories from a book, apparently devoid of hatred.

Eventually, Hussein released Mohammad and reinstated him as an officer. Mohammad no longer wished to serve in the Army.

"I told Saddam I need to quit. I told him that I've gone crazy and I can't work. He said if I can't work I'll go back to jail. I said 'Okay, I'll go back to work,'" Mohammad said and laughed.

After Coalition Forces defeated Hussein's Army, Mohammad joined the Iraqi National Guard. He joined as a captain for operations and in less than a year worked his way to colonel. After several unsuccessful battalion commanders, Mohammad became commander of the 303rd ING, now known as the 2-1 IA.

See 'Mohammad'
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"Men make history, and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

— Harry S. Truman (1884—1972)

Mohammad From Page 2

Under Mohammad's leadership, the 2-1 IA flourished, said Staff Sgt. Kiplangat D. Marisin, an IA advisor from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.



Col. Mohammad Faik Rauf al-Samarai, 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade commander, talks with U.S. Army Lt. Col. David B. Batchelor, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, during a mission March 30.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Matthew McLaughlin

"He is the type of leader they needed to get things done," the South Bend, Ind. native said. "He's compassionate to the Iraqi people, but if you're bad ..."

A major contribution to Mohammad's success was his personal selection of 2-1 IA leadership. Mohammad, a Sunni Muslim, is in charge of an overwhelmingly Shia battalion.

He ignored religious and political affiliations and selected officers and non-commissioned officers for promotion based on performance, said Capt. Christopher G. Johnson, a 2-1 IA advisor from Kent, Ohio.

"He operates no differently with Sunnis, Shias and Christians," he said. "They are all soldiers first."

Mohammad and his 2-1 IA soldiers faced a major challenge in February when they assumed responsibility over part of Haifa Street, a notoriously dangerous road in Baghdad. Violent hostilities towards Coalition Forces earned the street the title "Death Street" to media outlets.

"It was hell," Mohammad said. "No one could open shops, no one could leave their house, no one could go to school. Many people were killed."

Mohammad combated the terrorists by saturating the streets with dismounted soldiers and working with the community to uncover terrorist operations. After several weeks of intense fighting, 2-1 IA significantly reduced terrorist activities.

"When my 303rd (soldiers) go to Haifa Street, they take care of the problem," Mohammad boasted. "They captured many terrorists and worked very hard. They cleaned the roads, cleaned up the trash and helped people."

Mohammad led the pack of motivated soldiers on the front lines. He gained respect from U.S. and Iraqi soldiers by leading from the front and willingly putting himself in danger's way.

Mohammad made his presence felt to Haifa Street, residents, introducing himself to everyone he could, said Capt. Mike Campbell, an IA advisor from Celina, Tenn.

"Mohammad will walk the streets and talk to people," he said. "Someone will wave at him and he will go and talk to them. Twenty feet later he's talking to someone else."

His willingness to face danger as well as his loyalty to his troops is matched by the

soldiers' loyalty to Mohammad and their fearlessness in battle.

His soldiers don't run from a fight and their courage is a reflection of their leader, said Lt. Col. Mark Kne-ram, officer in charge of 2nd BCT advisors.

"They respond to the fact he leads from the front," said the New Castle, Penn., native. "He cares about his soldiers and they know that."

Mohammad's success and high profile has come at a price, however.

He is under constant threat from terrorist attacks, claiming he's escaped 42 assassination attempts. He joked that if cats have nine lives, he must have at least 43.

His family is also subjected to attacks. His cousin was reportedly kidnapped by terrorists and Mohammad had to restrain himself from retaliation.

Even his mother was attacked and threatened. His wife and children must take tremendous precautions to ensure their safety.

"It is hard for them," he said. "We continue with our lives. It is worth it if it gives my son a future, En shaa Allah (God willing)."



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq commander, greets commanders in the 1st Brigade of the Iraqi Army 6th Division on Baghdad's Haifa Street April 14. The 1st Brigade (formerly 40th IA Brigade) was the earliest Iraqi unit to assume autonomous control of its own battle space in Iraq when it took over the Haifa area of downtown Baghdad and has transformed the area into a safe and quiet neighborhood again.

Photo by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Fred Wellman

Iraqi forces take control during Salman Pak mission

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

SALMAN PAK, Iraq — Five battalions of roughly 3,500 Iraqi troops responded to insurgent threats and claims of hostage-taking by taking control of the city in a four-hour sweep that brought in about 40 suspects, officials said.

The April 18 operation by two battalions of police commandos and three public order battalions uncovered several vehicles loaded with explosives and two large weapons caches. No hostages were found. A third weapons



Iraqi security forces uncover ammunition cache in Salman Pak April 18.

U.S. Army photo by MNSTC-I Team Commando

forces are effective,” Spann said. “It was planned and executed by the Iraqis in response to insurgents claiming they had taken a number of hostages.”

The forces started moving into the city around 6 a.m., with commandos from the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 1st Brigade sweeping the city while the public order battalions maintained security around the outskirts of the city and along the only road leading in and out.

cache was discovered April 21, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Martin Spann, commando adviser, assigned to the Civilian Police Advisory Training Team (CPATT), Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

“This was a show of force to show that the Iraqi



Iraqi forces secure a perimeter during a four-hour sweep in Salman Pak.

U.S. Army photo by MNSTC-I Team Commando

They found a terrorist training camp, Spatt said, that included a car bomb factory. Six vehicles and one motorcycle were confiscated; one of the cars was completely wired with explosives and ready to be used, he said.

One weapons cache was discovered buried under the floor of a house under construction. “The discovery of this hidden cache is very fortunate; it will save numerous coalition and Iraqi lives,” Spann said.

Commandos recovered dozens of mortar and artillery rounds, explosive materials, and several 200-pound aerial bombs.

U.S. Army Maj. Paul Johnson, a CPATT adviser, said the Iraqi military leaders may not have planned and executed the operation as Coalition forces would have, but they were effective.

“They did it,” Johnson said. “They went in and they kicked butt down there.”

The operation included a back-up quick reaction force and support from Coalition soldiers with the U.S. Army’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.



Coalition forces inspect a large ammunition cache that was hidden under the floor of the building (above) and discover an active car bomb (below) during the operation in Salman Pak April 18.

U.S. Army photos by MNSTC-I Team Commando



Task Force Baghdad supports Salman Pak mission

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

SALMAN PAK, Iraq – Following an early-morning cordon and search of a city south of Baghdad, Iraqi Security Forces supported by Task Force Baghdad Soldiers, discovered weapons caches at two separate locations Monday.

Prior to Monday’s search, Salman Pak for months had been known as a terrorist staging ground for improvised explosive device attacks against Iraqi and U.S. forces. Items discovered were later destroyed by an explosive ordnance disposal team from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

“The mission was very successful,” said Lt. Col. Michael Johnson, commander of 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment. “The (Iraqi forces) were able to secure Salman Pak ... and find a large weapons cache where IED vehicle bombs were being manufactured.”

In the town center, Iraqi Security Forces, numbering in the hundreds, celebrated after reclaiming a police station that had not been occupied by Iraqi Police for months.

“The U.S. forces had a very small part in the operation,” Johnson said. “(3-7 Cavalry) served as a quick reaction force, if necessary. This was an all Iraqi-planned and executed mission.”

Iraqi Navy holds first council meeting

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The head of Iraq's Navy met with other senior-level Navy and Ministry of Defense officials for a first-ever meeting of the Navy Council.

Commodore Jawad, who heads the Navy, chaired the April 20 meeting in Maude House, home to Gen. Brims, the new deputy commanding general for Multi-National Forces –



Iraqi Gen. Babekir, chief of staff of the country's Armed Forces, gets a close look of an Iraqi fast boat approaching a patrol boat.

Photo by British Brig. David Clements

Iraq. Also attending was Dr. Sawsan, director general for Resources and Programs at the Ministry of Defense; Commodore Al-Lami, deputy director for MoD Policy and Requirements; Capt. Adel, operational commander in Umm Qasr Naval Base; Capt.

Thamir, who will soon head the Naval Staff from Baghdad; a MoD acquisitions representative and the newly-appointed senior Navy officer to the Joint Headquarters.

The Iraqi Navy has been in the process of rebuilding since major combat operations ended in 2003. With assistance from the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, the Navy has made strides in establishing coastal defense capabilities, Jawad said before the meeting started.

"This is our first conference for the Iraqi Navy," he said, through an interpreter. "Our ambition is ready. We are here to discuss what we want to develop, the obstacles we are facing, and how to remove them."



Two Iraqi patrol boats maneuver on open seas during a training exercise with the United Kingdom's RFA Diligence.

Photo by British Brig. David Clements

Having ministry representatives present will help the council deal with acquisition and finance issues, Jawad said. The other main obstacle is planning for the future, he added. "We must make sure we plan far enough into the

future to make sure our processes, structures and forces are sustainable in the long term," he said. "We will be working on that."

The Iraqi Navy is responsible for defending the country's coast-line, territorial waters, approaches to its two main ports in Basrah and Umm Qasr, and its off-shore oil platforms, said British Cmdr. Scott Verney, the MNSTC-I Maritime advisor. Iraq's Navy operates in patrol boats and smaller, faster patrol-type vessels, he said. With the Iraqi Navy's Infantry, it also conducts non-compliant boardings of other ships suspected of illegal activity.

The Navy's operational headquarters is at the Um Qasr base, while strategic issues are handled out of Baghdad.

Naval forces at Um Qasr are currently participating in a month-long training exercise with a United Kingdom auxiliary ship, the RFA Diligence, which serves as a forward operating base at sea for the Iraqi patrol boats. It is simultaneously supporting up to three patrol boats with food, water, fuel and engineering and life-support services.

The Iraqi Navy is in the process of buying two smaller auxiliary vessels to perform a similar function.

"This will enable 24-7 operations around the oil platforms," Verney said.

On a recent visit to the ship, Jawad joined Iraqi Gen. Babekir, Commander of Iraq's Armed Forces, and Commodore Gilmour, Coalition commander of North Arabian Gulf Maritime Security Operations, to watch a boarding exercise by the Iraqi Naval Infantry Battalion. The leaders also discussed continued interaction between the Iraqi Navy and Coalition maritime units.

Adel, the commander of operations at Um Qasr, said his forces started operations in February, working jointly with Coalition forces in protecting the oil platforms. Adel said he expects his forces to take complete responsibility for the platforms by September, and continue working to achieve sole responsibility for defending Iraq's territorial waters.



An Iraqi patrol boat docks to the United Kingdom's RFA Diligence during a training exercise. The Diligence, a fleet support ship, is acting as a forward operating base for the Iraqi Navy at Um Qasr.

Photo by British Brig. David Clements

Iraqi Air Force celebrates 74 years

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq – The commander of Iraq's Air Force joined other Iraqi and Coalition leaders in a flight line hangar here to mark the 74th anniversary of the country's Air Force.

The April 22 celebration included a flyover by a UH-1H "Huey" helicopter of Squadron 2, which began operations the same day, and a Bell 206 'Jet Ranger' helicopter, which will serve Squadron 12, which is expected to start operating in the next few months.

Six years after the Iraqi Army was created on Jan. 6, 1921, five students were sent to Britain to study aeronautics and another 32 for instruction in aircraft mechanics. Four years later, the pilots flew warplanes back to Baghdad from London. The day they landed, April 22, 1931, has been celebrated since as the country's Air Force Day.



An Iraqi officer gives a short brief on the UH-1H Huey to Maj. Gen. Kamal Abid Al-Sattar Barzanjy, commander of the Iraqi Air Force, and U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James Schwitters, commander of the Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq's Coalition Military Assistance Training Team.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Its history of service includes participation in the May 1941 war against British occupation, the 1948 war against Israel, and in June 1967, sup-

porting Jordanian troops by breaking through Israeli air space. The Iraqi Air Force also attacked Israeli bases in Sinai in October 1973 and played a major role in the war against Iran in 1980, according to historical accounts.

The Air Force was crippled from American strikes in Desert Storm, and was destroyed, for the most part, in 2003 during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Coalition forces are helping rebuild the Iraqi Air Force, with four squadrons operational so far and performing missions involving oil pipeline surveillance and transport services.

Squadron 2, with 21 pilots and 43 engineers and technicians will use Hueys for transportation-type missions, said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Juliet Tate, an adviser from the



Members of the Iraqi media interview Maj. Gen. Kamal Abid Al-Sattar Barzanjy following a ceremony marking the 74th anniversary of the Iraqi Air Force. The celebration also focused on the Air Force's Squadron 3 starting operations the same day. The squadron will provide transportation services in UH-1H "Huey" helicopters donated by the Jordanian government.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

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Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq who is helping with the rebuilding efforts. Crews will transport high-level leaders and other personnel, cargo and eventually, perform some medical-related transportation missions, Tate said.

The Jordanian government has pledged to give Iraq's Air Force 16 Hueys; four have been delivered so far, she added. In time, the Air Force will have another squadron of Hueys.

The other Air Force units include Squadron 3, with Comp Air surveillance aircraft donated by the United Arab Emirates; Squadron 70, with two Seeker and two CH-2000 aircraft – with four additional CH-2000s due to arrive in the next couple of weeks; and Squadron 23, flying three C-130E cargo planes donated by the United States.

Plans are for the Air Force to have a total of six squadrons. The Jet Ranger Squadron 12 will be the next online, followed by Squadron 96 with Recce aircraft.

In remarks to the crowd gathered to celebrate the anniversary, Iraqi Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Kamal Abid Al-Sattar Barzanji thanked Jordan and the Coalition forces that have assisted in putting the Air Force back on its wings.

"As you know, we have had a difficult time due to previous years of neglect," the general said, through an interpreter. "The time ahead will be hard, but with all of your effort, it will get easier and take less time."

Iraqi Col. Satte, commander of the Air Force contingents at Taji, shared his pride in watching the Huey and Jet Ranger fly over the ceremony. "These are our pilots, who will provide security to our country," Satte said. "This is a stepping stone to Iraq's sovereignty."



Air Force Birthday

A pilot with Squadron 2 of the Iraqi Air Force flies over a crowd celebrating the Air Force's 74th anniversary (above left); Iraqi officers and pilots get a close-up look at a Jet Ranger helicopter (above), which will be used by Squadron 12 when it begins operations; U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James Schwitters chats with an Maj. Gen. Kamal Abid Al-Sattar Barzanji, commander of the Iraqi Air Force, before the anniversary ceremony begins (left); Schwitters presents a thank-you gift to Taji Coalition base commander U.S. Army Col. Robert Catalanotti (bottom left); a crowd gathers around a UH-1H "Huey" helicopter as Schwitters and Iraqi Air Force Commander Gen. Kamal try out the pilot and co-pilot seats (far bottom left); U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Juliet Tate gestures a thank-you as Iraqi Air Force pilots, engineers and technicians show their appreciation for the work she and other Coalition advisers put into getting Squadron 2 ready to begin operations April 22.

Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Tips from Iraqi residents root out terror

By Spc. Erin Robicheaux

256th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

MAHMUDIYAH, Iraq – Supplied with tips from local residents, Army and Marines Corps patrols are giving anti-Iraqi forces a reason to complain lately.

Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), are working side-by-side to flush terrorists from their hiding places.

“Unless an insurgent is willing to be a suicide bomber, they don’t want to come here. The military presence is too high, and it’s growing,” said Col. Ronnie D. Johnson, the deputy brigade commander for the 256th. He said the experience of working with the Marines was a textbook case of how a joint force operation should run.

“The Marines came in here straight off of a ship, they integrated their staff in our operations center and we’ve been a team since day one,” said the New Orleans, La., resident. “If we run joint operations again, this would be a model for it.”

Lt. Col. David Furness, from Columbus, Ohio, and commander of 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 15th MEU, said his unit was brought in to clear an area that lacked military forces for quite some time. They conducted operations in a rural area comprised of

small villages and no urbanization. It was a perfect place for terrorists to hide weapons and ammunition.

From the word “go,” the Marines set out to rid the area of as many terrorists as they could. “We conducted several search-and-attack missions, searched homes, culverts, and canals,” said Furness. “If it looked like a good hiding place, we searched it.”

As a result of their persistence, the 15th MEU uncovered a number of weapon caches, including sites for rocket-propelled grenades, improvised explosive devices, and mortar rounds. A dismounted patrol discovered two IEDs made of aviation ordnance. A 500-pound Russian aviation bomb daisy chained to a 155-millimeter howitzer round was also discovered.

Furness gave much of the credit of the successful missions to the Iraqi people themselves. When the Marines arrived in the Mahmudiyah area, the local populace was overwhelmingly cooperative and showed signs they were happy the 15th MEU was there.

“These insurgents are taking advantage of the lawlessness in the area and they’re preying on these people,” said Furness.

The locals were so grateful for the Marines that they told them where to find weapon caches and anti-Iraqi forces. Furness’ Marines discovered a huge explosives cache that was used to make IEDs, because of a local woman’s assistance. She, along with the rest of the community, seemed tired of the insurgency, Furness said.

“The insurgents take their money, their cars, their furniture, everything they can from the innocent people in the area, and the residents are getting sick of it,” said Furness.

He claimed that having a constant presence in the area is key.

“When you’re episodically in and

out, it’s hard for the Iraqis to get to know you, but when you stick around for a little while, they’ll start to trust you and eventually they’ll tell you where to find these guys.”

Based largely on intelligence given to them from the local residents, the Marines detained more than 40 terrorists, many high-value targets. They went after three terrorist cells and in the end, disrupted them. Some of the leadership was captured by the Marines, including a few high financiers.

Iraqi Security Forces and Task Force Baghdad officials strongly encourage all Iraqi citizens to report suspicious behavior by calling one of the TIPS hotlines at 07901737723 or 07901737727 or e-mailing baghdadtips hotline@yahoo.com.

Johnson believed that the combination of local intelligence and the good working relationship between the two military services are what made for a very successful operation.

“The Marines are able to sustain themselves in a field environment for a significant amount of time,” said Johnson. “We were able to provide them with logistical support, such as ammunition and up-armored vehicles.”

The 256th BCT provided the Marines with the intelligence they needed to find the insurgents, but Johnson claimed that the significant contribution was the information provided by the local people. It was a sign that the Iraqis were approaching their breaking point and willing to do what they could to get rid of the criminals who were terrorizing them.

“They’re beginning to trust the American and Iraqi militaries, and once they do, they’ll tell us which doors to knock on,” said Johnson.



Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit patrol the streets around Mahmudiyah, Iraq.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Thomas Benoit

Elite Iraqi police putting training to use on streets

By Sandra Jontz

Stars and Stripes

Mideast edition, April 14, 2005

CAMP DUBLIN, Iraq — He was a soccer star in a previous life, the one untouched by war. He was famous among his fellow Iraqis, as soccer players usually were.

But now, he lives a life in obscurity — his face hidden behind a black ski mask when on the job. It's too risky for the 24-year-old soccer star-turned-cop to reveal to the world his life as a member of the Emergency Response Unit, an elite part of the rebuilding Iraqi police force.

He prefers his new life.

"My jobs are almost the same. In soccer, we made goals. Now I make goals. Goals by capturing terrorists," he said Monday during a training break at Camp Dublin, near Baghdad International Airport.



Members of the SWAT team from Karbala pull suspected "terrorists" from a commercial bus during a training exercise at Camp Dublin, near the Baghdad International Airport.

Stars and Stripes photo by Sandra Jontz

Last summer, the U.S. military's Civilian Police Assistance Training Team began rigorous training programs to establish specialized police teams in three areas: Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), emergency response, and dignitary protection, similar to functions carried out by the U.S. Secret service.

The training team also is responsible for organizing, training, equipping and mentoring the entire Iraqi police force.

The specialized teams being formed are unlike anything the Iraqi police force has seen in the past, said an Iraqi company commander. Because of the volatile security situation and the targeting of Iraqi police forces by insurgents, he and other members interviewed asked that their names not be published.

"We never had this kind of organization, this kind of specialized training," the lead captain said through a translator. "They are so excited to come and train to be operators."

The rigorous course translates into a high dropout rate, however, with only about 30 percent of the candidates graduating after eight weeks of basic and advanced courses, U.S. Army Capt. Ron Lanzo said.

The ERU will serve as Iraq's national high-end specialized police force, trained to carry out missions such as hostage takeovers or high-risk search and arrest missions, said U.S. Army Col. Ted Westhusing, senior adviser for the counterterrorism special operations training program under CPATT.

The ERU now comprises three companies of 60 members each. The goal by June 2006 is to build a regimental-size unit and add support, training and headquarters companies, Westhusing said.

Given the short time in which the units have trained, they've performed remarkably well during real missions, said trainer John Howard, a former member of Britain's hostage rescue team.

During a deployment to Mosul last month, the team helped the U.S. Army in various missions that involved the freeing of hostages.

The Iraqis also captured two high-value targets following an attack on the 25th Infantry Division that resulted in U.S. casualties, Howard said.

In another mission, they captured a suspect charged with the kidnapping and beheading of one of the police team members.

CPATT's goal is to train a total of 20 SWAT teams of 27 members each, and placing one team in each of Iraq's 18 provinces. The additional two could be placed in provinces with large cities, such as Baghdad, Lanzo said. Nine teams have graduated so far.

"We get a very high level of training from very good instructors and we develop day by day, building our ability, step by step," said a 23-year-old member of the SWAT team from Karbala.

"We are like the lion of Iraq, very brave."

DID YOU KNOW?

North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces have donated approximately \$21 million in equipment to Iraqi Forces. Equipment includes body armor, uniforms and AK-47s.

NATO Figures

Iraqi women determined to join police force

By Sandra Jontz

Stars and Stripes

Mideast edition, April 19, 2005

BAGHDAD — Things worth having are usually hard to come by, and Ammera Rathy says she is not intimidated by a culture not 100 percent ready to accept women on the Iraqi police force.



Ammera Rathy, 35, takes a written exam to qualify to become a cadet at the Baghdad Police Academy.

Stars and Stripes photo by Sandra Jontz

"I want to help keep my country and the people on the streets safe," said the 35-year-old police cadet candidate who never before has held a job.

"It will be difficult, yes, but I am ready," Iraq, however, might not be.

Women present "physiological" challenges, such as pregnancy, that make them incompatible to hold jobs as police officers, said Maj. Gen. Mohammed, dean of the Baghdad Police Academy, the only one of

five police academies in the country training women to be Iraqi Police.

"[Those] we have right now are assigned to do desk work, and I fear they will be harassed," he said, referring to harassment coming from both within the ranks as well as from the general population. For security reasons, he asked his last name not be published.

It is a delicate issue being addressed by the U.S.-led coalition and Iraqi leadership as the country transforms into a democracy.

Women police cannot be forced upon the society, but neither can they be ignored, especially as they line up to sign on the dotted line to be recruited, said officials of the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, or CPATT.

CPATT is responsible for organizing, training, equipping and mentoring the entire Iraqi police force and manages five police academies in Iraq.

"We have a society very rooted in a certain way of thinking," said Jim Adams, chief of institutional development for CPATT. "For us, it has been problematic, but we recognize we can't change overnight what has been going on for centuries."

Female police officers are not new to Iraq. In 1970, Mohammed said, the force started a pilot program that put females on traffic details in skirted uniforms with the hem just below the knee — a stark contrast to the traditional head-to-toe abaya worn by a majority of females at the time. The program failed, he said, though he is not sure if it was because Saddam Hussein came to power or if the culture failed to accept women in positions of authority.

The 27 female cadets now learning at the Baghdad academy "by and large" perform better than the males, Adams said. They tend to outperform the men in academics and even on the shooting range, where instructors don't have to break bad shooting habits.

Out of the nearly 28,000 graduates from all five academies who have gone through basic training since October, 582 are women — all from Baghdad academy. On May 1, the Sulaymaniyah Regional Academy is expecting to enroll 25 females for the first time.

"I am not against women," Mohammed said through a translator. "But females recruits will face difficulties from society. Where can we assign them? We are trying to make them equal to men, equal to men in the police department, but I don't know if this is going to work."

That is not a thought Zahrr Alganabe is willing to accept.

"I can do this job," she said after completing an obstacle course to qualify for the Baghdad Academy.

"I do not accept" that women cannot defend their nation by putting on the two-toned blue police uniforms, she said.



Zahrr Alganabe runs between cones during an obstacle course test given to candidates seeking to join the Iraqi Police.

Stars and Stripes photo by Sandra Jontz

Iraqi Army patrolling streets with Task Force Baghdad

By Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs

CAMP PROSPERITY, Iraq — Staff Sgt. Juan Serrano, Spc. Noel Mata and Spc. Michael Foutch, all from B Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, are used to riding around in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle; but these days, they've had to get used to something a little better suited to the streets of Baghdad.



A soldier from 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division looks out over the Tigris River toward Baghdad while pulling perimeter security during a routine patrol.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Emily Wilsoncroft

"Last time we were here to fight a war and that was it," Sgt. 1st Class Harold Hill, a D Company, 4/64 Armor platoon sergeant, explained. "Nobody was friendly. Now we're working hand-in-hand with the Iraqi Army."

The positions have shifted with the mission: Serrano drives an M1114 up-armored Humvee, while Mata mans the hatch and Foutch provides extra security.

And instead of fighting against the Iraqis, the Soldiers are working with them. Now, most of their time is spent training and on patrol with the soldiers of 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division.

"We... let them do most of the patrol mission, so eventually they can do it on their own," Serrano, a section leader from Levittown, Puerto Rico, said. "So far, the IA's doing good; they seem to be motivated and willing to learn."

Mata and Foutch agreed that the trainees have come a long way,

and the daily missions have been critical to that progress. During one routine patrol April 8, the IA soldiers accompanied their U.S. counterparts to various areas in Baghdad.

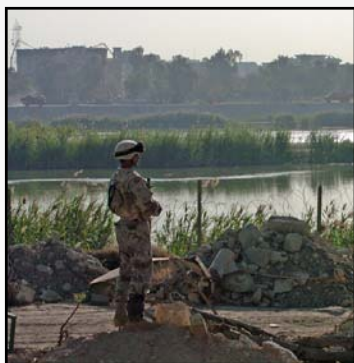
"Today, we're doing a joint patrol with the Iraqi Army; patrolling the river road route on the border of the Tigris," said Hill, referencing the first stop of the morning. "A lot of times it's been used as a dumping ground. We get out there and make sure there haven't been any caches placed or anybody trying to cross the river. It's one of the main infiltration routes we worry about when coming outside the Green Zone."

Upon arriving at the dumping ground, some of the 1/1 IA soldiers secured the perimeter while others searched for items such as weapons and unexploded ordnance. With some coaching from 4/64 Soldiers, the IA troops were able to complete the mission without a hitch.

The next several stops along the way were what Hill called "meet and greet" areas — the city residential sections where Soldiers take time to feel the pulse of the community.

"We get out and walk around, talk to the local populace, go to the local store, maybe buy a soda," Hill said. "We hang out and talk to them, see if they've had any problems."

As the three-vehicle convoy moved



A soldier from 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division looks out over the Tigris River toward Baghdad while pulling perimeter security at a dumping ground during a routine patrol.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Emily Wilsoncroft

from place to place, IA soldiers moved confidently and efficiently, quick to carry out instructions given to them by their U.S. comrades. Since most of the Iraqi soldiers speak little

English, an interpreter goes along on each mission to communicate between the two units.

Even without an interpreter, though, the smiles on the IA Soldiers' faces speak volumes about their pride in their new jobs and their desire to continue to get better at what they do.

"They're very proud people," said 2nd Lt. Bill Evans, a B Company, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, California National Guard platoon leader. "They want to learn. We seem to do a lot for them these days, but we have to wean them from that; we have to sever those ties so they can do this on their own."

Sgt. Marcus Brister, a D Co., 4/64 squad leader, said he thinks the Iraqis' biggest improvements come from their daily involvement in the security missions.

"At first, it was like herding cats," he said of his unit's initial work with the IA soldiers. "You could tell them what to do and where they need to go, but they're going to take their own way to get there."

Evans said the IA soldiers' zeal has caused the biggest challenges.

"If we get (intelligence) on someone we're looking for, we go through a whole (order) before we take any action," he said. "But if we send them out just to get information on the person, they'll come back, all excited, with him tied up, and say, 'We got him!' We're trying to teach them that that's not the way we do things."

"They want to do their jobs," Evans added, "but they just don't have the guidance. You can't easily undo what Saddam did over 35 years."

Still, little by little, the U.S. Soldiers' joined efforts are essential in reaching the ultimate goal of turning Iraq's security over to its own soldiers, and the need for Serrano, Mata and Foutch's Bradley is growing smaller and smaller.

Iraqi soldiers prepare for medical emergencies

By Spc. Erin Robicheaux

256th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP JUSTICE, Iraq -- Soldiers of the 1st Iraqi Army Brigade received training on basic first aid, sexually transmitted diseases, and personal field hygiene April 12, making them even more prepared to handle medical emergencies in a war zone.

"The purpose is to increase education of the Iraqi Army medical sections, and to clarify the existing knowledge," said Lt. Col. Fuoud, 1st IA Brigade Surgeon.

He said the Iraqi medical personnel are well-educated, but most have only hospital experience. His vision is for them to be proficient medically on the battlefield. He hopes to improve on the training program, with the help of the U.S. Army.

"We are in need of a sophisticated program, one that will educate the Soldiers in all positions," said Fuoud.

Battalions were tasked to send five medics to the training. After they receive and pass all requirements, they will go back and train their own Soldiers. The education, until now, was primitive, said Fuoud.

"Each soldier should know how to use a battlefield dressing, how to conduct personal hygiene in the field, and how to maintain medical operations in that type of environment," he said.

Fuoud also said the subjects of the instruction needed to be wide-ranged, and the staff needed to be plentiful.

"The more medical personnel you have, the better," he said.

He said soldiers need to be prepared for anything, and learn the fundamentals of first aid. In this program they are taught enough skills to effectively stabilize an injured soldier for medical evacuation.

Master Sgt. Tony Williams, from New Orleans, with the 3rd Infantry Division Surgeon office, said the soldiers followed the ways of Saddam's regime in the past, but now are learning more advanced ways to treat wounds and illnesses.

"There has been a vast improvement since this training began. Their skills have increased due to the training, and they are willing to soak up all the information that we can throw out to them," said Williams.

The training consisted of classroom instruction, and was given by Williams and Fuoud.

After they passed, Williams gave a hands-on test, to see how well they performed under pressure. The soldiers were required to perform CPR on a mannequin, as well as apply field dressing to a bleeding wound.

All soldiers passed with flying colors and received certificates of achievement. They agree that the classes will be beneficial to soldiers in future combat operation.

A brother and sister from Baghdad joined the Iraqi Army together, though it was not the intention at the beginning of the day.

They attended a recruiting drive and the brother was there only as a spectator to cheer on his sister, a second lieutenant. However, once he saw how the medical operations ran, he was hooked.

"I feel confident that if I had to use my medical training, I could perform my duties as an effective combat medic," said the lieutenant.

Her brother said he is grateful for the additional training. "It has increased my skills of first aid and made life in combat easier."



A second lieutenant in the 1st Iraqi Army Brigade takes the hands-on portion of her first-aid exam. Soldiers of the brigade participated in a course to polish their medical skills, in order to make them more effective medics on the battlefield.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Erin Robicheaux

Fuoud said the training was one more step toward independence, and he felt that it will only get better.

"We're making progress, and I think with time, it will grow. It's slow right now, but the goal is to have medical support for the entire Iraqi Army," he said.

Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers form bond of brothers

By U.S. Army Spc. Matthew McLaughlin

10th Mountain Division Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad — If Iraqi and American Soldiers met on a street in Baghdad less than three years ago, blood might have soaked the streets.

War cries were replaced with a jubilant reunion, however, when Iraqi soldiers bumped into their American trainers on separate patrols and embraced each other like longtime friends one February evening.

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division military transition team and 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade shared battles, meals, tragedies and triumphs together. As the 2nd BCT Soldiers neared the end of their tour, they reflected on their time spent with their friends from what they consider the best battalion in the Iraqi Army.

Before they became friends, however, both sides needed to gain each other's trust.

Staff Sgt. Stephen Barker, an IA trainer from Mesa, Ariz., said he was apprehensive towards his new trainees at first. He didn't know if they were trustworthy or reliable in battle. But he said he has been slowly and continually impressed with their hospitality and integrity.



An Iraqi Army soldier pulls security during a patrol around Baghdad March 30. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade are responsible for Haifa Street, an infamous road in Baghdad that has remained relatively silent for more than a month.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Matthew McLaughlin

"My opinions were mixed on them when I first came here," Barker, an engineer from the 58th Combat Engineer Company, Fort Irwin, Calif., said. "But now I'll stand next to them and fight any day."

The Iraqi soldiers also had to learn to trust and rely upon a

new group of U.S. Soldiers to train them. The 2-1 IA Soldiers already established close bonds with their prior trainers from the 1st Cavalry Division. Like a new kid in the neighborhood, the Iraqis were reluctant to make new friends, said Staff Sgt. Joseph T. Myer an IA trainer from Jackson, Mo.

"When we started working together, they were apprehensive," he said. "But over time we called each other 'akhuyas,'" meaning brothers in Arabic.



A 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division Soldier observes a 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade soldier pull security during a cordon and search mission in Baghdad.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Matthew McLaughlin

Both sides got a crash course in trust and friendship after their

first firefight together. The Iraqis saw the Americans were highly proficient in battle and the Americans were impressed with the Iraqis' willingness to stand by them and fight, said Staff Sgt. Kiplangat D. Marisin, an IA trainer from South Bend, Ind.

"We've been in so many firefights with them," he said. "You have to be able to trust the guy next to you. The company I'm with will do just about anything for me."

Marisin said the Iraqi Soldiers also began to open up when they realized the trainers were sincere in their efforts to assist the Iraqi Army.

"They saw we really cared about them," Marisin said.

"I think a lot of our friendship came when they realized we're here to help," Barker added.

The awkward phase finally ended and Soldiers from both sides became familiar with each other, calling each other by name or simply "akhuya." Their alliance that was once built on obligation now had established a special camaraderie. Their communications were supported by translators and the few Iraqi Soldiers who spoke English. Both sides exchanged stories, jokes and meals, Marisin said.

"I showed them family pictures, they showed me theirs," he said. "We hang out in the barracks with them and get to know them. We had some real deep conversations about how they felt about us, our culture, our families and things they've been through under Saddam Hussein."

See 'Bond'
Page 14



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Kiplangat D. Marisin, an Iraq Army trainer from South Bend, Ind., speaks to a 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade soldier March 30. The Iraqi soldier, a close friend to Marisin, was shot in the face several weeks ago. Marisin said he was greatly concerned and embraced him when he saw him for the first time seen here.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Matthew McLaughlin

Bond From Page 13

The Soldiers also experienced Iraqi generosity in the form of gift-giving. The 2-1 IA Soldiers were always willing to give what little they had to their allies. One soldier particularly close to Marisin's heart gave him a gift for his wife when Marisin went on leave.

"This guy never asked me for anything," he said. "When I went on leave, he gave me jewelry for my wife."

Marisin was grateful for his friend's heartfelt present and wanted to return the favor. When he returned, Marisin gave the Iraqi Soldier a number of gifts, including a leather jacket.

"He just about cried he was so happy," he recalled.

Concern for their friends made it harder when Iraqi soldiers died, however. The 2nd BCT Soldiers felt their comrades' pain and gained a greater respect for their struggles, Barker said.

"These guys go through more sacrifices than U.S. Soldiers," he said. "We're here for a year, but they have to go home at night."

One Iraqi's death in particular hit Soldiers from both sides particularly hard, Barker said. A respected Iraqi lieutenant who quickly befriended the Americans was captured by insurgents and beheaded. Barker somberly recalled the last conversation he had with his friend.

"The night before he died, he was going home and he said good night," he said. "I told him to be careful walking the streets after dark."

The Iraqi and American Soldiers were devastated by their loss. The trainers attended the lieutenant's memorial, complete with traditional rifle fire honoring the deceased, alongside their 2-1 IA counterparts.

"They had one of the biggest funerals for him," Barker said. "You would have thought World War III broke out with how many rounds they shot off for him."

Soldiers from 2nd BCT are nearing the end of their deployment and while they are looking forward to going home, they all said they don't look forward to leaving their comrades. Unfortunately very few Iraqi soldiers have e-mail accounts, or home addresses for that matter, so communications will likely end in Iraq. For now, however, the American Soldiers said they will value their friendship for a lifetime.

"I'm gonna miss these guys," Marisin said. "I feel like we accomplished something with the Iraqi Army."

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Tip leads to joint search, cache

BAGHDAD – A tip from a local citizen led to a search April 18 by Iraqi police officers and Coalition military police, who took possession of 600 rounds of ammunition, drawings of sniper attacks and road diagrams, according to a multinational forces report.

In Karbala, another munitions cache was discovered by Coalition forces April 18. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team took control of the ordnance, which consisted of 37 152mm artillery rounds and 60 100mm mortar rounds.

Suspected weapons dealer detained by joint forces

SAMARRA – Iraqi police officers and a Coalition task force conducted a joint raid which captured a suspected weapons distributor April 18, according to a multinational forces report. The suspect is an Egyptian national and believed to be a lieutenant in the Mullah Shawkat anti-Iraqi forces organization.

In Hillah, an Iraqi SWAT team joined Coalition forces in a cordon and search operation April 18 that resulted in the detainment of 15 suspected insurgents.

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi police defend station against insurgent attack

MOSUL – Iraqi police officers stood their ground and returned fire against a large-scale attack by anti-Iraqi forces on their west Mosul police station April 18, according to multinational force reports.

An estimated 40 to 50 enemy forces attacked the Sheikh Al Fatehy Police Station in the morning with small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades and mortar rounds. The Joint Command Center coordinated information about the attack, which resulted in police officers receiving back-up assistance from Mosul police commandos and a U.S. quick reaction force unit. The commandos and QRF forces fought their way through small arms fire and assisted in repelling the attack.

The insurgents fled on foot and in three vehicles. One Iraqi police officer was wounded during the battle, but returned to duty later in the day.

Iraqi and Coalition forces continued search operations in the area after the fight, locating two weapons, explosives caches and detaining 20 suspected insurgents. An explosive ordnance disposal team destroyed the munitions.

Iraqi forces stop attack on oil pipeline after IED hit

BAYJI – Iraqi civil defense forces reacted to a suspected improvised explosive device attack on an oil pipeline April 18 by securing the scene and stopping the flow of oil, according to a multinational forces report.

In other operations, Iraqi Security Forces detained three suspected insurgents identified as high-value targets responsible for anti-Iraqi attacks near Hawija, Bayji and Baqubah. Officials believe the capture of these men will reduce anti-Iraqi operations in those areas.

Coalition, Iraqi forces uncover car bombs and terrorist records

BAGHDAD – One vehicle rigged with explosives and four others loaded with ordnance were discovered April 18 south of Salmon Pak by Coalition forces, who were assisted in clearing the scene by an Iraqi Public Order Battalion, according to a multinational forces report.

Iraqi soldiers with the 2nd Company, 2nd Battalion also discovered a number of record books that appeared to be Chechnan, suspected Al Qaida training manuals, and a variety of other papers.

A second cache was discovered a short time later nearby, consisting of a 250-pound bomb, rockets and mortar rounds. Explosive ordnance disposal teams handled both sites.

Iraqi soldiers uncover IEDs in progress during area search

KIRKUSH – Iraqi soldiers searching an area hit by an improvised explosive device discovered materials and munitions in two separate locations in various stages of being assembled into IEDs, according to a multinational forces report.

The 5th Battalion Iraqi Army soldiers discovered a sack of two 130mm rounds with detonation cord and wire in one location during the April 16 search. They also discovered four 130mm rounds bundled and primed with a blasting cap and detonation cord, which was tied to an initiation wire buried and tied off to a bush on the side of the road at the other location.

An explosive ordnance disposal team destroyed the rounds at the site.

Basic soldiering skills and a metal detector helped the soldiers uncover the rounds, the report said.

Iraqi equipment rollup

A look at some of the equipment delivered to the Iraqi Security Forces this week

Ammunition.....	6.6 million rounds	Chevy LUV trucks.....	411
Handguns.....	5,760	Chevy Luminas.....	344
Individual body armor.....	5,402	Chevy Blazers.....	250
Global Positioning Systems.....	301	Land Cruisers.....	56
AK-47s.....	5,724	Ashok Leylands.....	18
Z-Backscatter X-ray vans.....	2	Water trailers.....	12

Information provided by MNSTC-I J-4

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers discover IEDs, arrest terrorists

BAGHDAD – In two separate incidents April 15, bombs in the Baghdad area were found before terrorists could use them.

Acting on a tip from an Iraqi local national, Iraqi Army Soldiers discovered a improvised explosive device placed near the home of a former ministry official. Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were called to the scene to assist. An explosives ordnance disposal team arrived and removed the bomb.

The other IED was described as a burlap sack with wires coming from it. An explosives ordnance team detonated the bomb in place.

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers also performed two cordon-and-search operations, netting two suspected terrorists.

In the first search, Soldiers raided a terrorist cell leader's house and detained the identified suspect. Another late-night operation targeted four former regime generals. One of the generals was taken into custody. He is suspected of planning and carrying out attacks on multi-national forces.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, two local nationals were detained when Task Force Baghdad Soldiers observed them unloading what appeared to be munitions from their car. The suspects were taken into custody.

Search ends with five suspects detained

TALL AFAR – Iraqi Army and Coalition soldiers detained five suspected insurgents after searching a mosque April 17, according to a multinational forces report.

Elsewhere, Iraqi police officers detained three suspected insurgents in

Laylan. One suspect confessed to planting improvised explosive devices, a multinational forces report said.

Iraqi police discover munitions cache

KIRKUK – Iraqi police officers recovered munitions consisting of 53 mortar rounds and 24 rockets here April 10, according to a multinational forces report.

The munitions were taken to a local police station for verification. The mortar rounds of various sizes were determined to be inert except for two of the rounds. The rockets, ranging in size from 105mm to 120mm, were determined to have no explosives, but contained propellant.

An explosive ordnance disposal team was notified in order to transport the munitions to a forward operating base for removal.



Support graduation

An Iraqi commander salutes passing troops (above) at an April 18 graduation ceremony for 143 students of the first class of the Iraqi Army Support and Services Institute in Taji. An Iraqi soldier salutes (below) as he passes by in one of several vehicles used to teach wheeled maintenance. The 30-day course is divided into six classes covering transport supervision, wheeled maintenance, armored maintenance, supply supervision, basic logistics for supply and basic logistics for maintenance and transportation. The initial class was made up of officers and enlisted soldiers from the 1st Division of the Iraqi Intervention Force.

Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Call-in tip leads to large cache find

MOSUL – A tip from a local citizen led to a search of a garage April 20 by Iraqi forces, which confiscated a large cache of weapons, ammunition and other contraband materials in a red truck, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with the 22nd Battalion, 6th Iraqi Intervention Brigade, confiscated three rocket propelled grenade launchers, three machine guns, two sniper rifles, 14 rocket propelled grenade rounds, one 60mm mortar round rigged as an improvised explosive device, two drums and hundreds of loose 7.62 mm rounds, anti-personnel ammunition, one bag of unidentified white powder, 17 protective masks, six chest harnesses, 34 maps and other various contraband items during the search.

Iraqi forces detained the two guards of the garage and transported them for further questioning. No injuries or damage was reported during the operation.

Iraqi soldiers capture suspects, weapons

AL SAMAJJIR – Following an early morning cordon and search here April 20, Iraqi forces discovered a weapons cache and detained seven suspected insurgents to include a chief suspect in an improvised explosive device attack, according to a multinational forces report.

One of the detainees was identified as Abu Omar, who is a confirmed IED maker and a key suspect in the Zumar IED attack. The detained suspects were transported to Al Kisik for further questioning.

Soldiers with the 21st Battalion of the Iraqi Army confiscated two rocket propelled grenades, two RPKs (Russian style machine guns), a kit for making IEDs, numerous belts of 7.62 mm ammunition and a mortar base plate during the search.

Joint recon gathers munitions, detainees

TIKRIT – A combination of Iraqi and Coalition forces conducted a reconnaissance operation northwest of here April 20 that netted three suspected insurgents and a small assortment of improvised explosive device equipment and munitions, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with the Iraqi Army's 30th Bomb Company partnered with U.S. Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry of the 1st Brigade Combat Team to conduct the large area reconnaissance. The detained suspects were transported to a Task Force holding cell for further questioning and processing.

The joint forces confiscated various items to include time fuse, detonation cord, expended shock tube, wires and electrical devices (IED kit materials) and an altitude fuse for a 155mm illumination round.

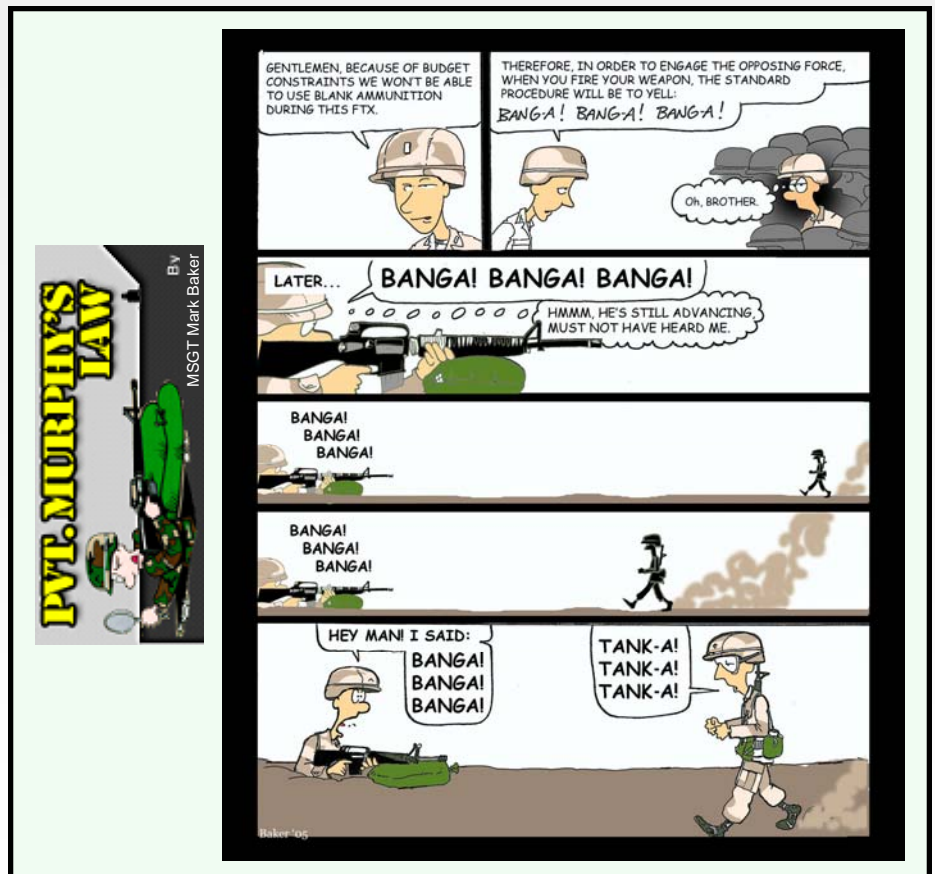
Iraqi Division search nets 27 detainees

ASH SHURA – Following a cordon and search here April 20, 2nd Division Iraqi forces (1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade; and 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 3rd Brigade) detained 27 suspects, according to a report.

One of the detainees was identified as a captain from the Ash Shura station and is being held for possible involvement with anti-Iraqi forces. The detained suspects are being held for further questioning.

Iraqi soldiers catch man with explosives

BAYJI – A group of Iraqi Army soldiers manning a traffic checkpoint detained a man April 16 after watching him trying to hide a bag under his car that later was found to contain 10 pounds of stick propellant, according to a multinational forces report.



Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi citizen helps eliminate massive weapons cache

MOSUL – Acting on a tip from a local citizen, Iraqi and Coalition security forces recovered massive amounts of weapons and munitions during raid and search operations April 22.

One cache was discovered during a raid in Al Hatr, southwest of Qayyarah by soldiers with the Iraqi Army's 107th Battalion, 22nd Brigade and U.S. Army Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment of the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division's Stryker Brigade Combat Team. The raid was based on information reported to local Iraqi police by a citizen, officials said.

The cache included about 2.5 million anti-aircraft rounds, 850 mortar rounds, 144 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, 150 rockets, 225 pounds of TNT, 127 anti-tank mines, 75 anti-personnel mines, 300 assorted artillery, rocket and mortar initiators, 200 hand grenades, and an anti-aircraft weapon.

Soldiers detained one suspect.

Another cache was found during a cordon and search operation southeast of Mosul by U.S. Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division's Stryker Brigade Combat Team.



Iraqi Army troops from the 107th Battalion, 22nd Brigade and Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment organize a massive weapons cache seizure that took place southwest of Qayyarah in the town of Al Hatr April 21.

U.S. Army photo

future destruction.

In a separate operation, U.S. Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment detained one individual suspected of terrorist activities during a cordon and search operation in Tall Afar April 21.

Coordinated efforts between Iraqi and Coalition forces and citizens providing tips are creating a trend toward improved security, officials said.



Rockets and other weapons are lined up for destruction following a massive weapons cache seizure by Iraqi Army and U.S. Troops in northern Iraq.

U.S. Army photo

It included 880 anti-tank detonators, 307 anti-tank mines, 95 artillery rounds, 1,200 grenades, 30 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, 700 grenade fuses, 800 rounds of large caliber ammunition, and 3,000 rounds of small arms ammunition.

The weapons and munitions were confiscated for

Iraqi police graduate 222 from advanced training courses

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Police Service graduated 222 police officers from advanced and specialty courses at the Adnan Training Facility, April 21, as part of the Iraqi government's on-going effort to train its security forces.

The courses consist of Basic Criminal Investigations with 51 graduates, Interview and Interrogations with 38 graduates, Violent Crime Investigation with 35 graduates, Internal Controls Investigation with 22 graduates, Critical Incident Management with 29 graduates, Executive Leadership with 13 graduates and Counter Terrorism Investigations with 34 graduates.

The Basic Criminal Investigation course covers topics such as theft, burglary, arson, robbery, sexual offenses, and homicide investigation. The BCI course has previously graduated 1,448 police officers.

The Interviews & Interrogations course covers advanced interview and interrogation techniques and includes instruction on the preservation and protection of human rights, and the importance of ethical behavior during interviews and interrogations. Two hundred and fourteen students previously completed this course.

The Violent Crime Investigation course introduces participants to investigative techniques to be used in a variety of situations, but particularly in violent crimes such as armed robbery, rape and murder. One hundred and fifty eight students have previously graduated this course.

Internal Controls provides training on how to deal with personnel complaints and allegations, as well as police conduct in general. Five hundred and fifty eight officers have previously graduated from this course.

Critical Incident Management is designed to provide participants with the understanding of and application skills for managing critical incidents. One hundred and twenty one students previously graduated this course.

Executive Leadership covers executive level concepts of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting and budgeting. Other topics include visionary leadership, along with strategic planning. Two hundred and nine officers have previously graduated from this course.

Counter Terrorism Investigations is designed for senior police officials who will be assigned to counter-terrorist activity investigation. The course explains the FBI's and various branches in the U.S. Justice Department's efforts against terrorism activities. One hundred and thirty six officers previously graduated from this course.

Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either an eight-week basic training course for new recruits or a three-week 'transitional integration program' course designed for prior-service officers.

The police officers report back for continued duty at their respective stations immediately.